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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, amid these challenging times, use our lawmakers to do the work of freedom. May they strive to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States to the best of their abilities. Inspire our Senators to find creative ways to mitigate the effects of the painful blows that have hit this land we love.

As our legislators strive to become instruments for Your glory, sustain them with Your Grace. Lord, give them wisdom to seek to understand and help one another to seize the opportunities that accompany nearly every crisis. Provide them with clear minds, clean hands, and courageous hearts in this grand and difficult time.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REDUCTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is no longer business as usual in America, so let's end business as usual in Washington.

We are experiencing a deadly pandemic. The United States is firing on all cylinders to fight it and to find a vaccine, but it does us no good if Americans can't even afford the vaccine or related treatments. Even before the coronavirus outbreak reached our shores, President Trump called upon Congress to deliver a bill to his desk that lowered drug prices for Americans. He mentioned that in his State of the Union message. The Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act does just that. It is time for Congress to support the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTESTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, all across our Nation, the past few days have seemed to mark a turn for the better.

On Friday morning, new data showed that the economic fallout from this pandemic may have bottomed out and begun to turn around weeks earlier than had been predicted. Instead of losing millions more jobs in the month of May, our Nation had already begun adding back millions of jobs. Lockdowns are easing, and businesses are reopening. The greatest country in world history is coming back online, and our citizens are getting their jobs back by the millions.

Now, there is no question our national comeback is just beginning. The coronavirus is still with us. We have a long way to go to rebuild and recover from the historic layoffs of this spring, but already, even in these early days of our careful reopening, the American people are trouncing the predictions and starting to come back strong.

What is more, this weekend saw millions of Americans, once again, take to the streets and town squares to protest the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. Yet, unlike what our Nation faced about a week ago, this weekend's demonstrations seemed to have been almost entirely peaceful—no more rampant looting, no more police precincts set on fire. By and large, there had been just peaceful protests in our great American tradition.

In my home State of Kentucky, in Louisville, just like around the Nation, hundreds gathered to remember Breonna Taylor on what would have been her 27th birthday and to continue to call for answers. In Lexington, a moment of silence was held at an historic former slave market. Then a group marched to police headquarters. Police officers, including the chief, came out and met them in civil discourse. And, while a lot of ink has been spilled recently about our big cities, we cannot miss that this moment is echoing throughout smalltown America as well.

In Henderson, in western Kentucky, 200 people—protesters, law enforcement, and local leaders alike—gathered for an interfaith prayer vigil. In southeastern Kentucky, in Corbin, more than 100 gathered for a peaceful demonstration that included a prayerful moment of silence. The police officers keeping watch joined in. In Hazard, a town of about 5,000 people in eastern Kentucky, citizens gathered for what they called a "march of love." It was the same story in Benton, in Danville, in Morehead—all around the Commonwealth and all around the country. Our

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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